

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are now pending in the application. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given to the present application and the courtesies extended to applicant's representative during a telephone interview on June 28, 2005. Arguments made by the applicant's representative during the interview are set forth below. Although agreement was not reached at that time, applicant believes these arguments traverse the Examiner's rejections. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claim 9 is objected to for certain informalities. Applicant has amended this claim to address the objection. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,166,811 (Long) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,125,298 (Smith). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Long is directed generally to a robot-based gauging system for determining three-dimensional measurement data for an object. However, Long is not concerned with how the measured object relates to an assembly environment. Long merely reports sensor measurement data in relation to a reference frame. Applicant notes that

a reference frame (i.e., a coordinate system) for reporting sensor data is an abstract point of reference for defining measurements in space, but does not itself form three-dimensional surfaces within the space. Therefore, Long does not disclose defining three-dimensional model data representative of an assembly environment for the measured object, where the model data defines surfaces that are adjacent to the measured object in an assembled configuration. Moreover, Long fails to teach or suggest comparing the measurement data for the measured object with the model data which defines surface adjacent to the measured object. The Examiner relies on Smith to teach this latter aspect of Applicant's invention.

Smith is directed generally to a wheel mounting system. The Examiner notes that Smith discloses taking two pictures of a wheel stud and comparing the two pictures to determine the orientation of the wheel stud. However, comparing two pictures of the same object is distinguishable from comparing measurement data for an object with model data for surfaces adjacent to the measured object. Therefore, Smith also fails to teach or suggest comparing the measurement data for the measured object with the model data which defines surface adjacent to the measured object as recited in Applicant's claimed invention.

In contrast, Applicant's invention is directed generally to an automated method for assessing a measured object in relation to its assembly environment. Of note, Claim 1 recites "defining three-dimensional model data representative of an assembly environment for the measured object, where the model data defines surfaces that are adjacent to the measured object in an assembled configuration". Claim 1 further recites "comparing the measurement data with the model data for the assembly environment,

thereby assessing the measured object in relation to the assembly environment". Since neither of the relied upon references teach or suggest these two aspects of the present invention, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1, along with claims depending therefrom, defines patentable subject matter over these references.

Applicant notes that independent Claims 7 and 8 recite similar subject matter, and thus should be allowable, along with claims depending therefrom, for the same reasons as Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.


CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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